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VAIL.......

# THE ULSTER COUNTY GAZETTE FOUND AT LAST

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# THE ULSTER COUNTY GAZETTE FOUND AT LAST

By R. W. G. Vail
*Librarian, American Antiquarian Society*

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071
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# THE ULSTER COUNTY GAZETTE FOUND AT LAST

*By* R. W. G. VAIL
*Librarian, American Antiquarian Society*

THE most famous of all American historical ghosts has been finally laid through the discovery of a genuine *Ulster County Gazette* for January 4, 1800. When the story of this old Hudson Valley newspaper was told in the *Bulletin* for April, 1930, there was no original in any American library or museum in spite of years of hopeful search and the examination of thousands of reproductions.

There had been many rumors of originals but the most plausable seemed to be that reported by Mr. Clarence S. Brigham of the American Antiquarian Society. A Hudson Valley resident told him several years ago that he was the owner of the three original numbers of the *Gazette* for December 28, 1799, January 4 and 11, 1800, but that he had lent them and had, so far, been unable to recover them. Mention of these three issues appeared on page five of our previous article and the hope was then expressed that they might eventually come to light.

It now appears that the unexpected has happened, for, in November, 1930, the Library of Congress received an inquiry regarding three numbers of the old paper with the identical dates of the lost copies. Knowing from our previous article that originals of these dates were still in existence but a few years before, the national library was not slow in following up the lead and soon after had the satisfaction of placing all three originals among the treasures of its newspaper division.

The three original *Ulster County Gazettes* were secured from Mrs. Mary Crawford Lydon (Mrs. James Lydon, Jr.), a descendant of Petrus, or Peter, Decker, a Revolutionary soldier who lived on the northwest side of the Shawangunk River, in Ulster County. He served first as ensign; and on March 9, 1773, was promoted to be First Lieutenant in the Fourth Regiment of New York State Militia (*New York State Archives,* vol. 1, p. 301–302). The Decker family lived near Kingston, where they attended church, and would naturally have subscribed to the county paper. Having served under Washington, it was to be expected that Lieutenant Decker would save those issues of the paper which told of the last days of his beloved Commander-in-Chief.



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## DESCRIPTION OF ORIGINAL GAZETTE

The most interesting question arising from the discovery of the original *Gazette* for January 4, 1800, is: "How can it be told from the reproductions?" The answer is easy, for one needs only to look at the second line of the heading and see whether or not there is a comma after the word "County." If there is none, that copy of the paper is probably an original. A genuine number must also have the following reading for page 1, column 4, line 1: "command the town; and notwithstanding."

Sufficient characteristics of an original are listed in a circular of the Library of Congress, as follows:

1. It should be printed on the paper used in 1800, handmade from rags, soft, pliable and rough in texture.

2. This paper should have as watermarks throughout, slender parallel lines $1\ ^1/_{16}$ to $1\ ^3/_{16}$ inches apart.

3. Title in italic capitals should measure $6\ ^{15}/_{16}$ inches in length.

4. Print should show the blurred edges of hand inked, hand press work.

5. The second column on page 1 should measure $2\ ^7/_8$ inches in width between rules, and 13¾ inches in length.

6. The old style "s" should appear frequently as in the words "Published," and "Ulster" in the heading, and in the words "President," "House," "Representatives," and many more in the text.

7. The last line of page 1, column 1, should read "liberal execution of the treaty of amity."

8. One full-length mourning slug should appear on page 1, column 2; 2 full-length and 5 short slugs on page 2; and 2 full-length slugs on page 3.

9. Mourning rules should be used between columns and across top and bottom and along outer edge of pages 2 and 3.

10. The "Last Notice" on page 3, column 2, concerns "the estate of johannis Jansen," and should be signed by "Johannis I. Jansen."

Mr. Joseph Gavit suggests that to no. 10 should be added that the word "deceased" is spelled "Deccased," the second "c" being out of line.

The fact that three consecutive numbers of the *Gazette,* with the famous one in the middle, were found together, tended to prove the genuineness of that for January 4th. When, on examination, it was found that they were all printed on

ULSTER COUNTY GAZETTE.

Published at KINGSTON, (Ulster County) BY SAMUEL FREER and SON.

[Vol. II.] SATURDAY, January 4, 1800. [Num. 88.]

AMERICAN CONGRESS.

TUESDAY, December 10.

Conclusion of the House of Representatives

JOHN ADAMS.

SENATE.

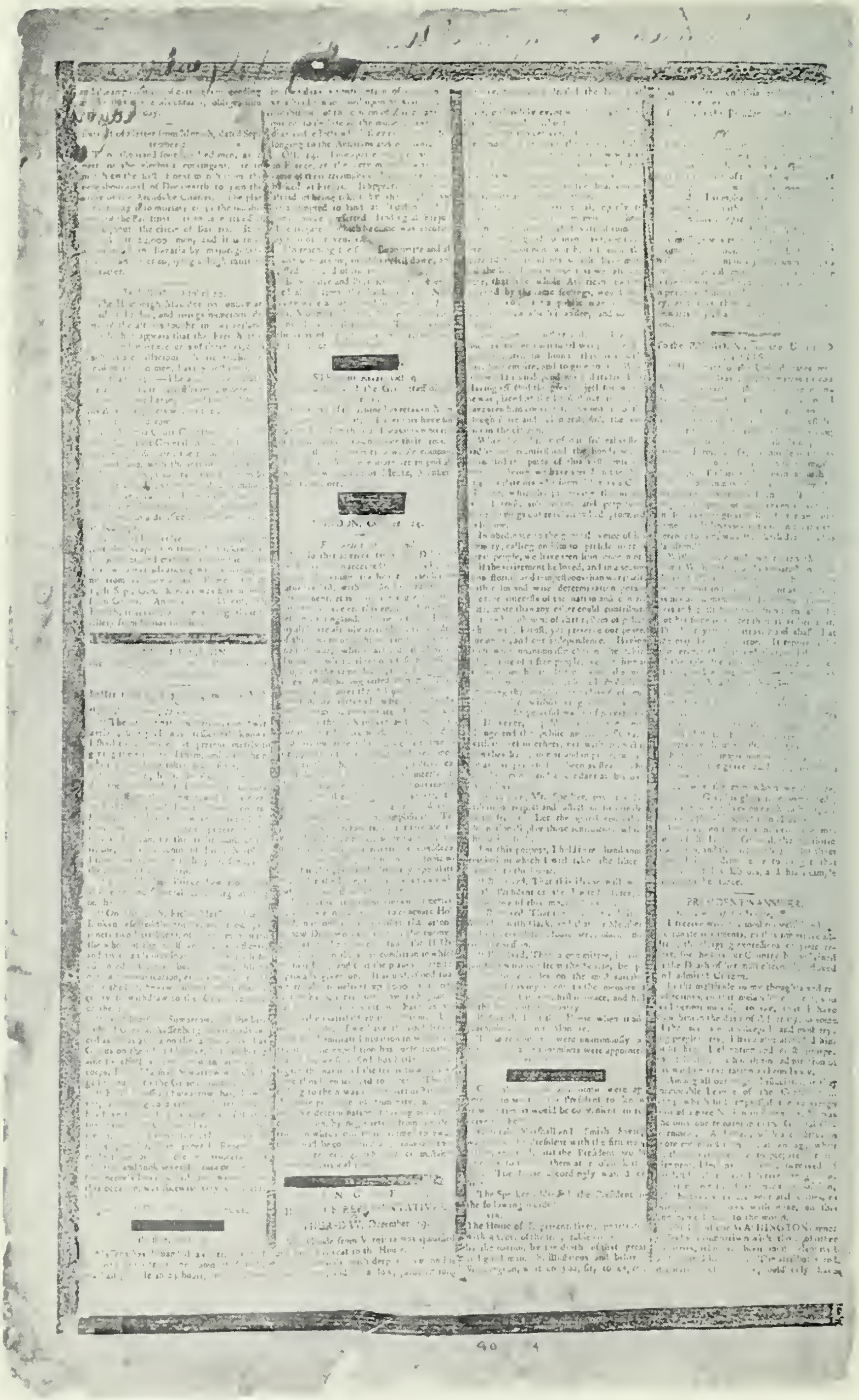
TO THE PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES.

REPLY.

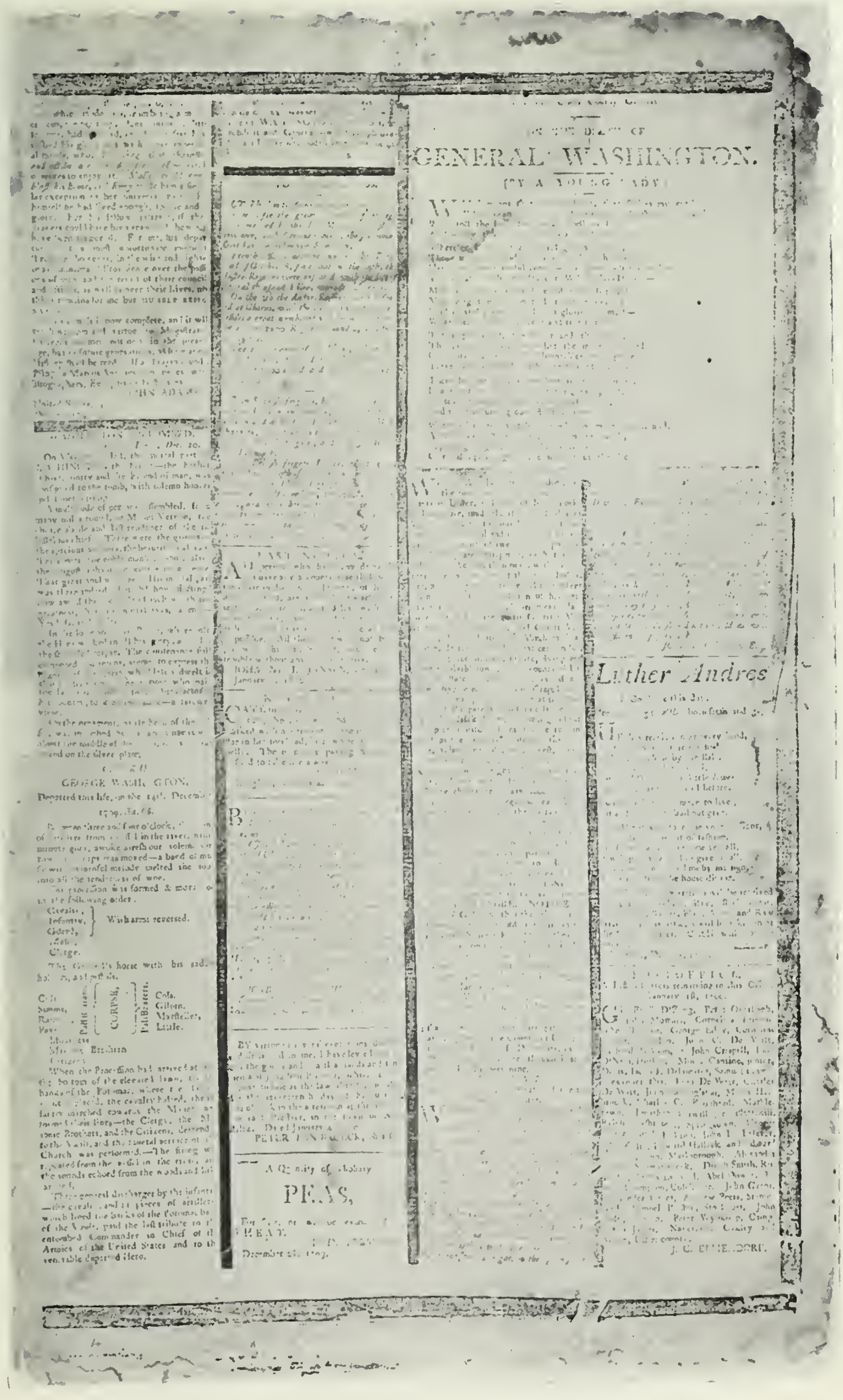
LONDON, Oct. 15.

JOHN RAMSAY.

First page of the original issue of the *Ulster County Gazette,* January 4, 1800, owned by the Library of Congress



Second page of the original issue of the *Ulster County Gazette*, January 4, 1800, owned by the Library of Congress


GENERAL WASHINGTON.

GEORGE WASHINGTON,

Departed this life, on the 14th December

With arms reversed.

CORPSE.

Cols.
Gilpin,
Marsteller,
Little.

When the Procession had arrived at the bottom of the elevated lawn, on the banks of the Potomac, where the family vault is placed, the cavalry halted, the infantry marched towards the Mount and formed their lines—the Clergy, the Masonic Brothers, and the Citizens, descended to the Vault, and the funeral service of the Church was performed.

LAST NOTICE.

POST OFFICE.

A Quantity of Marrowfat

PEAS,

Luther Andres

J. C. ELMENDORF.

Third page of the original issue of the *Ulster County Gazette*, January 4, 1800, owned by the Library of Congress

# Sheriff's Sales.

BY virtue of an Execution, directed and delivered to me, I have levied and taken the goods and chattels, lands and tenements of Lewis Gatheric, which I shall expose to sale as the law directs, on Monday the 20th day of January next, at the dwelling-house of [illegible] Gatheric, in the town of Shawangunk, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.—Dated December 7, 1799.
PETER TEN BROECK, Sheriff.

BY virtue of a writ of *fieri facias*, issued out of the Court of Common Pleas, for the county of Ulster, directed and delivered to me, I have levied and taken the goods and chattels, lands and tenements, of Edmund Turner, which I shall expose to sale as the law directs, on Tuesday the 28th day of January, next, at the house of said Turner, in the town of New-Marlborough, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon. Dated December [illegible], 1799.
PETER TEN BROECK, Sheriff.

BY virtue of a writ of *fieri facias*, issued out of the Court of Common Pleas, for the county of Ulster, directed and delivered to me, I have levied and taken the goods and chattels, lands and tenements of [illegible] Merritt, which I shall expose to sale, as the law directs, on Wednesday the 22d day of January next, at the house of said Merritt, in the town of Colchester, at ten o'clock in the forenoon. Dated December 14, 1799.
PETER TEN BROECK, Sheriff.

BY virtue of a writ of *fieri facias*, issued out of the Court of Common Pleas, for the county of Ulster, directed and delivered to me, I have levied and taken the goods and chattels, lands and tenements of Samuel Terwilleger, which I shall expose to sale, as the law directs, on Thursday the 23d day of January, next, at the house of said Terwilleger, at ten o'clock in the forenoon.—Dated December 7, 1799.
PETER TEN BROECK, Sheriff.

BY virtue of a writ of *fieri facias*, issued out of the Court of Common Pleas for the County of Ulster, directed and delivered to me, I have levied and taken the goods and chattels, lands and tenements of Felton Smith, which I shall expose to sale as the law directs, on Monday the 17th of February, at the house of said Smith, in the town of Middletown, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon. Dated December 14, 1799.
PETER TEN BROECK, Sheriff.

BY virtue of an execution issued out of the Court of Common Pleas, for the county of Ulster, directed and delivered to me, I have levied and taken the goods and chattles lands and tenements of John Ames, which I shall expose to sale as the law directs, on the second Tuesday of January next, at 10 o'clock A. M. at the dwelling house of said Ames, in the town of Catskill.—Dated November 30, 1799.
PETER TEN BROECK, Sheriff.

BY virtue of a writ of [illegible] *fieri facias*, issued out of the Supreme Court of Judicature of the People of the state of New-York, directed and delivered to me, I have levied and taken the goods and chattles, lands and tenements of Cornelius Benham, which I shall expose to sale as the law directs, on Saturday the 8th day of February, at the house of said Benham, in the town of Windham, at ten o'clock in the forenoon. Dated December 28, 1799.
PETER TEN BROECK, Sheriff.

BY virtue of several Executions, issued out of the Court of Common Pleas, for the County of Ulster, directed and delivered to me, I have levied and taken the goods and chattles, lands and tenements of Lodewyck Schoonmaker, which I shall expose to sale as the law directs, on Monday the tenth day of February, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at the house of said Schoonmaker, in the town of Rochester.—Dated December 28, 1799.
PETER TEN BROECK, Sheriff.

BY virtue of a writ of *fieri facias*, issued out of the Court of Common Pleas, for the county of Ulster, directed and delivered to me, I have levied and taken a lot of land, containing eighteen acres, more or less, belonging to John Tinlow, lying in the town of Neversink, his right and title in and to the same, I shall expose to sale, as the law directs, on Thursday the 6th day of February, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at the Court-House in Kingston. Dated December 28, 1799.
PETER TEN BROECK, Sheriff.

BY virtue of an Execution directed and delivered to me, I have levied and taken the goods and chattles, lands and tenements of Francis Potter, which I shall expose to sale, as the law directs, on Monday the 10th day of February, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at the house of said Potter in the town of Rochester. Dated December 10, 1799.
PETER TEN BROECK, Sheriff.

*THE vendue of the goods and chattles, lands and tenements of John [illegible] [illegible] Dated December 10, 1799.*
PETER TEN BROECK, [illegible]

## For Sale,

A number of [illegible] Military Tract, containing [illegible] to 600 acres each. Indisputable titles will be given.

Also, one quarter Township, [illegible] in the Connecticut Purchase [illegible] moderate price. Persons desirous of becoming purchasers, may know the particulars by applying to
[illegible]
Rochester, December [illegible]

## John Tremper,

HAS commenced Business in the Mercantile Line, and has a general assortment of

## DRY GOODS
AND
## GROCERIES,

Which he will dispose of very cheap for Cash or Produce only.
CASH paid for WHEAT & FUR.
Kingston, December 14, 1799.

ABRAHAM I. HASBROUCK,
RETURNS his cordial Thanks to his Friends and the public [illegible] for their past favors, and [illegible] informs them that he [illegible] [illegible]
and has [illegible]

*A General Assortment*

## DRY GOODS
AND
## GROCERIES,

Which he will dispose of upon the most reasonable terms, for CASH or COUNTRY PRODUCE.
Kingston Landing, Sept [illegible]
N. B. Wanted [illegible] of WHEAT and FLAX SEED, for which CASH will be given.

## Samuel Freer,

HAS just received an assortment of GOODS, adapted to the Season, which he will dispose of, for Cash or Country Produce only, upon very moderate terms.
CT ASHES taken in at said store.
December 21, 1799.

## FOR SALE,

THAT valuable house and lot of Abraham Elmendorf, deceased. There is on said lot a good frame house and barn, also a blacksmith's shop, and a number of bearing apple trees. Terms of payment will be made as easy as possible, and an indisputable title will be given for the same. For further particulars enquire of Abraham Elmendorf, jun. opposite the Printing Office, or Cornelius A. Elmendorf, on the premises.
Kingston, June 15, 1799.

## Writing,
WRAPPING, and
BONNET PAPER.
For Sale at the Printing-Office.
October [illegible], 1799.

CASH, given at the Printing-Office, for
## RAGS.

*BY order of the Hon. [illegible] one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of Judicature of the State of New-York* [illegible]
STEPHEN [illegible]
*John M. Van Leu*, [illegible]

*BY order of the Hon. James Kent, Esq. one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of the State of New-York*, [illegible]
BENJAMIN [illegible]

## For Sale,
[illegible] of a
## SAW-MILL,
[illegible] for BUILDING [illegible] lying in the town of Rochester [illegible] an inexhaustible quantity of [illegible] NEWOOD [illegible]
A STOUT, HEALTHY, [illegible]

## Negro Wench.

Any person [illegible] to purchase, may [illegible] by applying to JOHN [illegible]
November [illegible]

## Wanted,

AN Apprentice to the Clothier's Business, an active diligent [illegible], from 14 to 18 years of age. Enquire of Abram Peters, at Marbletown.
December [illegible]

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore existing under the firm of Hasbrouck & Jansen, is this day dissolved by mutual consent.——All persons having any accounts standing open with said firm, are hereby requested to come and settle the same without delay, as the subscribers are anxious to have their accounts finally adjusted, in order to make a division of the property belonging to said firm among themselves.
ABRAHAM I. HASBROUCK,
HENRY JANSEN.
Kingston Landing, Sept 14, 1799.
N. B. All kinds of produce will be accepted in payment.

TO be sold at private sale, by the subscriber, the Farm whereon he now lives, containing about 50 acres, about five acres of it is Meadow, and also an orchard of 200 bearing apple trees. The said farm is under good improvement.—There is on the premises a good frame house and a Dutch barn. Any person wanting to purchase said farm, may apply to the subscriber. The terms of payment will be made easy.
MATTHEW BLANSHAN, jr.
Bloomendaal, (Hurley) Sep. 23, 1799.

[illegible]
THAT I shall not hereafter consider myself responsible for the Receipt or Execution of any Writ or Process whatever, unless delivered to me personally, or lodged in my Office.
PETER TEN BROECK, Sheriff of Ulster County.
Kingston, [illegible] 20th, 1799.

## Lost,

A WATCH on Wednesday last. The person who has found, or may find it, will meet with a suitable reward by leaving it to the Printers.
November, 16, 1799.

## Second Notice,

OF my wife HANNAH, [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] 1799.

TO BE SOLD AT PRIVATE SALE,
ON reasonable terms, [illegible]
[illegible] Church, [illegible] good new frame house [illegible] [illegible] Rosendale [illegible]

## Notice.

[illegible]
[illegible] Jun.
Rosendale, September [illegible], 1799.

FOR SALE.
A neat, elegant, well finished Pleasure
## SLEIGH.
Apply to James Hasbrouck, in Kingston.
December 21, 1799.

## Strayed,

FROM the subscriber, a red HEIFER, 3 years old; has a small star in her forehead, is white under her belly, and a little white to her tail; has a piece cut off her left ear.——Also, gone, a young brindle HEIFER, with a white forehead, three years old, a piece cut [illegible] the left ear.—Whoever gives information to the subscriber so that he can get them again, shall be handsomely rewarded.
BENJAMIN DEMYER.
Kingston, December 11th, 1799.

TO BE SOLD,
A FARM lying at Little Shandaken, in the town of Woodstock, holden to lease forever, at £[illegible] a year. Containing according to the lease, 180 acres. About 20 acres cleared, with a new block-house of two rooms on the same.—For further particulars, and an indisputable title, apply to
HENDRICK POST.
Likewise the PLACE, whereon the subscriber now lives, containing six acres of land. On the same is a good frame house with a cellar under the same, and a young orchard, with a good well of water.
Kingston, Dec. 14, 1799. H. P.

## Strayed,

[illegible] BULL
[illegible] horns V. T. B. Any [illegible] up the said bull will [illegible] giving information thereof [illegible] Printers.
[illegible] Dec. 14, 1799.

Fourth page of the original issue of the *Ulster County Gazette*, January 4, 1800, owned by the Library of Congress

the same handmade paper stock with the same watermarked "chain lines" in each, all doubt as to genuineness vanished.

## THE TWO OTHER NUMBERS

On reading the two other numbers of the *Gazette,* we find them fully as interesting as their more famous brother. In the issue of December 28, 1799, which is also appropriately draped in black, we find the announcement of Washington's death as it first reached the people of the Hudson Valley. There are extracts from two letters from Alexandria, dated December 15th, the day after his death, giving the details of Washington's last hours and the preparations for his funeral. "We are all close to our houses and act as we should do if one of our family had departed. The bells are to toll until he is buried, which will not be until Wednesday or Thursday." . . . "As a mark of respect to him all business will be suspended here tomorrow; and it will stand recorded forever hereafter, as a day of mourning."

## KINGSTON LEARNS OF WASHINGTON'S DEATH

It is interesting to read how the sad news affected the people of Kingston, as recorded by Editor Samuel Freer:

KINGSTON, December 28, 1799.

ON THE DEATH OF

GENERAL WASHINGTON.

*Ye portals of Heaven wide open receive,*
*The Hero, the Statesman and Warrior most brave.*

WHEN the *scythe* of time mows down the common mass of the human race, they who have stood foremost in promoting the felicity of men, attract the notice and fill the heart with sorrow when they withdraw from the world. — Washington is gone, but tho' dead, he shall live — live in the hearts of a grateful and affectionate people — the leader of the armies of America — the promoter of our independence — the stay and bulwark of the liberties of his country, are themes which will engage the attention of the present, and the admiration of future ages. — Firm in Council and brave in the field, Heaven preserved his life amidst the thunders of war, and the instruments of death until the liberty and independence of our country was established on a rock.

When we, like him shall be mouldering in the grave, the future historian will describe, ages to come, admiring, weeping and lamenting o'er Washington as the wonder of the world! —

ON Monday last, the inhabitants of this town, received the mournful information of the death of GENERAL WASHINGTON. — On this unhappy event sensations of grief and sorrow pervaded every countenance.

In order to pay their last homage of respect for that great and good man, the Reformed Dutch Church was dressed in mourning, and the bell thereof mufled and tolled from twelve to one o'clock for several days.

Yesterday being the anniversary of ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, the members of *Livingston Lodge,* convened together, and celebrated the day in a manner highly redounding to their honor. — Guided by the sacred flame of brotherly love, they adjourned after taking an affectionate parting from each other.

They all had Mourning bands in consequence of the melancholy news of the death of their illustrious BROTHER and beloved Chief, GEORGE WASHINGTON.

ON SATURDAY THE 14TH INSTANT,

DIED SUDDENLY,

At his Seat in Virginia,

*GEN. GEORGE WASHINGTON.*

*Commander in Chief of the Armies of the United States of America;*

MATURE IN YEARS,

COVERED WITH GLORY, AND

RICH IN THE AFFECTIONS OF THE

AMERICAN PEOPLE.

When men of common character are swept from the theatre of life, they die without the tribute of public notice or concern, as they had lived without a claim to public esteem. When personages of more exalted worth are summoned from the scene of sublunary existence, their death calls forth a burst of general regret, and invigorates the flame of public gratitude. In obedience to the wishes and to the voice of their country, the orator, the poet, and the historian combine to do justice to the virtues of their character, while the labors of the painter, the sculptor, and the statuary in perpetuating their likeness, do homage to their memory.

But when, in compliance with heaven's high mandate, the HERO OF THE AGE lies numbered with the date — when the revered sage, the august statesman, the father of his country, has resigned his breath — When the Idol of an Empire, the envy and admiration of distant nations, and the brightest ornament of human nature — When WASHINGTON IS NO MORE, let a sense of the general loss be testified by the badges of a general mourning; but let not the voice of eulogy be heard, least the weakness of talents, and the deficiency of languages, do injustice to the lustre and fame of the deceased!

From Vernon's Mount behold the Hero rise!
Resplendent Forms attend him thro' the skies!
The shades of war worn veterans round him throng,
And lead, enwrapt, their honoured Chief along!
A laurel wreath th' Immortal WARREN bears,
An arch triumphal MERCER's hand prepares,
Young LAURENCE, 'erst'th' avenging bolt of war,
With port majestic guides the glittering car,
MONTGOMERY's godlike form directs the way,
And GREEN unfolds the gates of endless day!
While Angels, "trumpet-tongued" proclaim thro' air,
"Due honors for the *First of Men* prepare."

[*True American.*]

The issue of the *Gazette* for January 4th gave an account of the funeral, the speeches and resolutions in Congress and the official action of President Adams, all of which is familiar through the reproductions of that number. The *Gazette* for January 11th told of the memorial processions and services in New York and Philadelphia and gave further details of Congressional action in memory of our first President.

There is probably no contemporary newspaper giving a fuller account of Washington's death [or a better understanding of what it meant to the American people of the time] than that published in these three numbers of Freer's paper. It is perhaps because of this full treatment of the subject at a time when almost no domestic news was appearing in the American press that interest in this one obscure provincial paper has continued to the present day. Its fame is a tribute to the patriotism of its editor and to his ability as a first class newspaper man.

## REFERENCES

Facsimiles and text of the original *Gazettes* are reprinted from the originals in the Library of Congress, through the courtesy of the Librarian of Congress.

All four pages of the original *Gazette* for January 4, 1800, were reproduced, accompanied by a brief article by Mr. Henry S. Parsons, in *Antiques* for January, 1931. This article contains the first exact reproduction of the old paper ever published.

In order to answer the hundreds of inquiries regarding the *Gazette,* the Library of Congress published, late in 1930, a single page describing their unique original and telling something of the history of the paper.

Another recent article on the *Ulster County Gazette,* written by Professor Edmond S. Meany, of the University of Washington, appeared in the *Washington Historical Quarterly* for January, 1931, and was reprinted in separate form. Though he had not yet learned of the existence of an original, Professor Meany mentions several western reproductions of the January 4th issue which were previously unrecorded. Mr. Joseph Gavit of the New York State Library has also discovered several new reprints, and one or two others have come to light since the publication of our previous article, so that there are now known to be more than seventy-five different reproductions — and one lone original.

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